



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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HUNTING DATES ANNOUNCED FOR DOVES, RAILS, AND GALLINULES

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today that the hunting regulations which will apply during the 1954-55 season for the shooting of doves, rails, and gallinules have been approved in their final form.

The regulations released today set forth the specific dates of the hunting seasons for the States, together with bag and possession limits. As announced on July 12, the dates of September 1, 1954, to January 10, 1955, were specified by the Fish and Wildlife Service as the starting and closing dates within which framework the States were permitted to select the season dates most desirable to them.

The regulation which prohibits the taking of migratory game birds by aid of bait or feed has been amended this year in order to clarify its application. (A copy of this entire section is appended.)

Shooting hours will be as follows:

Rails and Gallinules--The general shooting hours for these birds will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Mourning or Turtle Doves--Shooting hours in Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia will be from 12 o'clock noon until sunset. In those other States which have a dove shooting season--Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Washington--these birds may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

For quick reference, the open seasons, bag and possession limits prescribed by the amended regulations, and the amended section pertaining to baiting are presented in tabular form in the attached schedules.

(1) ATLANTIC FLWYWAY STATES

	:	:	Rails and gallinules
	:	:	
	:	:	: All Others
	:	:	: Sora : (Singly or
	:	:	: : in aggregate)
DAILY BAG LIMITS . . .	:	:	: 25 : 15
POSSESSION LIMITS . .	:	:	: 25 : 30 ⁽¹⁾
SEASONS IN: (2)	:	:	
Connecticut	:	:	: Sept. 1 - Oct. 15
Delaware	:	:	: Sept. 1 - Oct. 1
Florida	:	:	: Sept. 9 - Nov. 17
Georgia	:	:	: Sept. 10 - Nov. 18
Maine	:	:	: Oct. 1 - Dec. 9
Maryland	:	:	: Sept. 1 - Oct. 20
Massachusetts	:	:	: Oct. 20 - Dec. 28
New Hampshire	:	:	: Sept. 1 - Oct. 30
New Jersey (1)	:	:	: Sept. 1 - Nov. 9
New York	:	:	: Sept. 1 - Nov. 9
North Carolina	:	:	: Sept. 1 - Nov. 9
Pennsylvania	:	:	: Sept. 1 - Nov. 9
Rhode Island	:	:	: Sept. 1 - Nov. 9
South Carolina	:	:	: Sept. 10 - Nov. 18
Vermont	:	:	: Sept. 1 - Oct. 30
Virginia	:	:	: Sept. 11 - Nov. 19
West Virginia	:	:	: Oct. 1 - Oct. 16

(1) New Jersey: Rails (Other than sora), possession limit 15.

(2) No open season in District of Columbia but migratory game birds may be possessed therein in accordance with §6.6(c).

(2) MISSISSIPPI FLWYWAY STATES

	:	:	Rails and gallinules
	:	:	
	:	:	: All Others
	:	:	: Sora : (Singly or
	:	:	: : in aggregate)
DAILY BAG LIMITS . . .	:	:	: 25 : 15
POSSESSION LIMITS . . .	:	:	: 25 : 15
SEASONS IN:	:	:	
Alabama	:	:	
Arkansas	:	:	: Sept. 15 - Nov. 13
Illinois	:	:	
Indiana	:	:	
Iowa	:	:	
Kentucky	:	:	
Louisiana	:	:	: Oct. 1 - Nov. 29
Michigan	:	:	
Minnesota	:	:	: Sept. 18 - Nov. 16
Mississippi	:	:	: Oct. 7 - Dec. 5
Missouri	:	:	: Sept. 1 - Oct. 30
Ohio	:	:	: Sept. 1 - Oct. 30
Tennessee	:	:	: Sept. 1 - Oct. 30
Wisconsin	:	:	

NOTE:--The season for hunting rails and gallinules in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Alabama will be prescribed in August.

(3) CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES

	Rails and gallinules	All Others (Singly or in aggregate)
DAILY BAG LIMITS	25	15
POSSESSION LIMITS	25	15
SEASONS IN:		
Colorado	Sept. 15 - Nov. 13	
Kansas	Sept. 15 - Nov. 13	
Montana		
Nebraska		
New Mexico		
North Dakota	Oct. 1 - Nov. 29	
Oklahoma		
South Dakota	Sept. 1 - Oct. 30	
Texas	Sept. 1 - Oct. 30	
Wyoming		

NOTE:--The season for hunting rails and gallinules in New Mexico will be prescribed in August.

(4) PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES

	Rails and gallinules	All Others
	Sora (Singly or	in aggregate)
DAILY BAG LIMITS	25	15
POSSESSION LIMITS	25	15
SEASONS IN:		
Arizona	Sept. 1 - Oct. 30	
California		
Idaho		
Nevada		
Oregon		
Utah		
Washington		
Alaska		

(1a) MOURNING OR TURTLE Doves
Daily bag limits 8(1)
Possession limits 8(1)

SEASONS IN--(2)

Alabama (3)	Oct. 12 - Oct. 31 and Dec. 22 - Jan. 10	Maine	Ohio	
Arizona (1)(4)	Sept. 1 - Oct. 10	Maryland (3)	Oklahoma (1)	Sept. 1 - Oct. 10
Arkansas (3)	Sept. 15 - Oct. 24	Massachusetts	Oregon (1)	Sept. 1 - Oct. 10
California (1)(4)	Sept. 1 - Sept. 20 and Oct. 12 - Oct. 31	Michigan	Pennsylvania	Sept. 15 - Oct. 14
Colorado (1)	Sept. 1 - Oct. 10	Minnesota	Rhode Island	
Connecticut		Mississippi (3)	South Carolina (3)	Sept. 15 - Oct. 4 and Dec. 20 - Jan. 8
Delaware (3)	Sept. 20 - Oct. 29	Missouri	South Dakota	
Florida (3)	Oct. 11 - Oct. 30 and Dec. 11 - Dec. 30	Montana	Tennessee (3)	Sept. 1 - Sept. 20 and Oct. 14 - Nov. 2
Georgia (3)	Sept. 1 - Sept. 20 and Dec. 22 - Jan. 10	Nebraska	Texas (1)(3)	See Footnote 5
Idaho (1)	Sept. 1 - Sept. 15	Nevada (1)	Utah (1)	Sept. 1 - Sept. 15
Illinois	Sept. 1 - Oct. 5	New Hampshire	Vermont	
Indiana		New Jersey	Virginia (3)	Sept. 11 - Sept. 30 and Oct. 16 - Nov. 4
Iowa		New Mexico (1)	Washington (1)	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30
Kansas (1)	Sept. 1 - Oct. 10	New York	West Virginia	
Kentucky (3)	Sept. 1 - Oct. 10	North Carolina (3)	Wisconsin	
Louisiana (3)	Sept. 16 - Oct. 5 and Dec. 22 - Jan. 10	North Dakota	Wyoming	

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(4a) MOURNING OR TURTLE DOVES (Continued)

- (1) Daily bag and possession limits is 10 in States indicated.
- (2) No open season in District of Columbia but migratory game birds may be possessed therein in accordance with §6.6(c).
- (3) Shooting hours in States indicated, 12 o'clock noon until sunset.
- (4) The white-winged dove seasons in Arizona and in Imperial and Riverside Counties in California will conform with the mourning or turtle dove seasons in these States. The daily bag and possession limit for white-winged and mourning doves is not more than 10 singly or in the aggregate of both kinds.
- (5) Texas: Mourning doves in Val Verde, Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Comal, Hays, Travis, Williamson, Milam, Robertson, Leon, Houston, Cherokee, Nacogdoches, and Shelby Counties and all counties north and west thereof, Sept. 1 to Oct. 10. In remainder of State, Oct. 1 to Nov. 9.

§ 6.3 Means by Which Migratory Game Birds May Be Taken

(a) Migratory game birds on which open seasons are specified in § 6.4 may be taken during such seasons only with bow and arrow or with a shotgun not larger than No. 10 gage, fired from the shoulder, except as permitted by §§ 6.5, 6.8, and 6.9, but they shall not be taken with or by means of any automatic-loading or hand-operated repeating shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, the magazine of which has not been cut off or plugged with a one-piece metal or wooden filler incapable of removal without disassembling the gun so as to reduce the capacity of the said gun to not more than three shells at one time in the magazine and chamber combined. Such birds may be taken during the open season with the aid of a dog and from land or water (including a blind, or a boat or other craft not under tow, but not including any boat or other craft having a motor attached or any sailboat unless such boat, craft, or sailboat is fastened within or tied immediately alongside of any type of stationary hunting blind): Provided, That nothing in this section shall permit the taking of migratory game birds from or by means, aid, or use of any sinkbox (battery), motor-driven conveyance, motor vehicle, or aircraft of any kind, the taking of waterfowl by means, aid, or use of cattle, horses, mules or live duck or goose decoys, the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of waterfowl and coots by means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance or sailboat: Provided further, That nothing in this section shall prohibit the picking up of injured or dead waterfowl, coot, rails, or gallinules by means of a motorboat, sailboat, or other craft.

(b)(1) Migratory game birds may not be taken by the aid of salt, or shelled or shucked or unshucked corn, wheat, or other grains, or other feed or means of feeding similarly used to lure, attract, or entice such birds to, on, or over the area where hunters are attempting to take them.

(2) As used herein, the terms "shelled or shucked or unshucked corn, wheat, or other grains," or "other feed or means of feeding similarly used," shall not be construed as including properly shocked grain, standing crops (including aquatics), flooded standing crops, flooded harvested crop lands, or grains found scattered solely as a result of normal agricultural planting or harvesting. Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to propagating, scientific, or other operations in accordance with the terms of permits issued pursuant to this part.

(c) No person over 16 years of age may take migratory waterfowl unless at the time of such taking he has on his person an unexpired Federal migratory-bird hunting stamp, validated by his signature written across the face thereof in ink. Persons not over 16 years of age may take migratory waterfowl without such stamp.